DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the RCE filed 08/13/2008 and the telephonic interview on 10/24/2008.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/13/2008 has been entered.

3. **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. John J. Wakeley (Registration No. 60, 418) on 10/24/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:
In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a Central Processing Unit (CPU);

a memory coupled to the CPU;

a display unit configured to display a plurality of print settings on a print setting screen;

an extraction unit configured to extract from a head portion of a queue, a conflict resolution rule for avoiding a conflict among the print settings displayed on the print setting screen;

a determination unit configured to determine whether a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing unit configured to, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction

unit, remove the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and insert the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit,

wherein said processing unit is configured to, if it is determined in said determination unit that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted by said extraction unit, describe delay information in a status variable, remove the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and insert the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit after all status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising an updating unit configured to update a user interface of a printer driver based on an evaluation result of the conflict resolution rule by said processing unit.

Claim 16. (Cancelled)

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a Central Processing Unit (CPU);

a memory coupled to the CPU;

an extraction unit configured to extract a conflict resolution rule from a head portion of a queue;

a determination unit configured to determine whether a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing unit configured to, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, remove the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and insert the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit,

wherein said processing unit is configured to, if it is determined in said determination unit that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted by said extraction unit, describe delay information in a status variable, remove the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and insert the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined by said determination unit that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit, evaluate the conflict resolution rule

extracted by said extraction unit after all status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed, and

wherein said processing unit is further configured to count [[an]] a number of times that the status variables described therein the delay information are processed, and forcefully evaluate the conflict resolution rule extracted by said extraction unit when [[an]] a count value exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the control symbol is applied to a conflict rule including a temporary status variable.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) An information processing method performed by a computer, the method comprising:

a print setting display step of displaying a plurality of print settings on a print setting screen;

an extraction step of extracting, from a head portion of a queue, a conflict resolution rule for avoiding a conflict among the print settings displayed in the print setting display step;

a determination step of determining whether a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, removing the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserting the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluating the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step,

wherein said processing step, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted in said extraction step, describes delay information in a status variable, removes the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserts the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step after all status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising an updating step of updating a user interface of a printer driver based on an evaluation result of the conflict resolution rule in said processing step.

Claim 21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) An information processing method performed by a computer, the method comprising:

an extraction step of extracting a conflict resolution rule from a head portion of a queue;

a determination step of determining whether a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, removing the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserting the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluating the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step,

wherein said processing step, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted in said extraction step, describes delay information in a status variable, removes the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserts the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said

extraction step, evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step after all status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed, and

wherein said processing step further counts a number of times that the status variables having described therein the delay information are processed, and forcefully evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step when a count value exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the control symbol is applied to a conflict rule including a temporary status variable.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) A computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium, for causing a computer to execute an image processing method comprising:

a print setting display step of displaying a plurality of print settings on a print setting screen;

an extraction step of extracting, from a head portion of a queue, a conflict resolution for avoiding a conflict among the print settings displayed in the print setting display;

a determination step of determining whether a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, removing the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserting the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluating the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step,

wherein said processing step, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted in said extraction step, describes delay information in a status variable, removes the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserts the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step after all status variables having described therein the delay information are processed.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 24, further comprising an updating step of updating a user interface of a printer driver based on an evaluation result of the conflict resolution rule in said processing step.

Claim 26. (Cancelled)

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) A computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium, for causing a computer to execute an image processing method comprising:

an extraction step of extracting a conflict resolution rule from a head portion of a queue;

a determination step of determining whether or not a predetermined control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, wherein the control symbol indicates information on priority of application of the conflict resolution rule over other rules; and

a processing step of, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, removing the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserting the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into an end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step, evaluating the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step,

wherein said processing step, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is included in the conflict rule extracted in said extraction step, describes delay information in a status variable, removes the control symbol from the conflict resolution rule and inserts the conflict resolution rule from which the control symbol is removed into the end portion of the queue, and, if it is determined in said determination step that the control symbol is not included in the conflict resolution rule extracted in said

extraction step, evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step after all status variables having described therein the delay information are processed, and

wherein said processing step further counts a number of times that the status variables to have described therein the delay information are processed, and forcefully evaluates the conflict resolution rule extracted in said extraction step when a count value exceeds a predetermined number.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) The program according to claim 24, wherein the control symbol is applied to a conflict rule including a temporary status variable.

4. REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

Claims 14, 15, 17-20, 22-25, 27, and 28 have been examined and allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Interpreting the claims in light of the specification, Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record.

The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited in independent claims 14, 17, 19, 24, and 27.

Dependent claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VAN H. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-3765. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30AM - 6:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, MENG-AI AN can be reached at (571) 272-3756.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/VAN H NGUYEN/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2194